

74. Needs of the Colachel town.

MR. N. NILACANTA PILLAI (*Member, Municipal Council, Colachel*) spoke of the following needs of the Colachel municipal council :—

(1) A road from Colachel Travellers' Bungalow to the Kadiyapattanam tank. The road would be of great service to the cultivators of the locality and to the people going to the local market, public offices etc. It could be easily opened through the large extent of poramboke lands in the locality.

(2) Conversion of the local dispensary into a hospital.

(3) Construction of a flight of steps in the A. V. M. canal within the Colachel town. An estimate for the work had been sanctioned long ago, but it was not yet taken in hand. The municipal council had not the funds to execute the work themselves. So Government had to attend to it.

(4) Discontinuance of the practice of nominating as members of the council persons residing outside the municipal limits.

(5) Prescribing Tamil as a compulsory subject of study in the Colachel vernacular school.

(6) Construction of a pier in the Colachel port.

(7) Opening of a Munsiff's court and a Magistrate's court or in the alternative, a Munsiff-Magistrate's court, at Colachel.

(8) Opening of a *Chintamani* or an Ayurveda Vaidyasala ;

(9) Enhancement of the grant awarded to the municipality to at least Rs. 2,000 per annum ;

(10) Alignment of the Trivandrum-Nagercoil railway line through the eastern parts of the town, the railway station for the locality being opened near the present Sub-registrar's office. The opening of the line from the port due east would necessitate the destruction of several cocoanut gardens. That route should therefore be given up.

(11) Extension of the jurisdiction of the Colachel Village Panchayat court to Manavalakurichi, Talakulam, Midalam, and Kizhmidalam and also investing the court with power to deal with cases of value not exceeding Rs. 100.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Nilakanta Pillai, in regard to the road from the Colachel Travellers' Bungalow to the Kadiyapattanam tank, the Chief Engineer is of opinion that the route you propose is not suitable for the road. He considers another alignment will probably be more suitable and he is having the matter investigated. I understood you to express the opinion, that the people of the place are willing to open a ryots' road; if so, the P.W.D. will afford them all encouragement and any assistance they require in opening it.

With regard to the question of the construction of steps to the A.V.M. canal, it is a matter for the municipality. Personally, I doubt whether it could be conducive to the health of the people if they started bathing in the A.V.M. canal.

The question of a pier for Colachel is dependent upon a variety of considerations, one of which is the scouring and silting, and the Chief Engineer is now conducting an investigation.

As regards the railway line, I quite understand your sympathy for the cocoanut tress if it goes that way. For some time at least the cocoanut trees will be saved as the railway will not go that way in the near future.

As regards the conversion of the local dispensary into a hospital, this came up before the 22nd session, and the Administrative Board expressed the opinion that there is no necessity to convert the dispensary into a hospital. It certainly needs to be housed better and the Board has taken up the question of providing better accommodation. That will probably meet your requirements.

I can only repeat what I said last year in regard to the Vydiasala. It is a matter for the municipality in municipal areas and Government does not give grants-in-aid to Vaidyasalas within municipal limits. That is an obligation devolving on the municipality.

I am obliged to you for bringing to my notice that persons living outside municipal limits are sometimes nominated as members. Your suggestion will be borne in mind that as far as possible persons not living within the municipal limits should not be nominated as members.

In regard to the prescribing of Tamil as a compulsory subject in vernacular schools there, a report has been called for from the Director of Public Instruction and as soon as it is received, the matter will be considered. Any other points of yours will be separately considered by Government.

75. Needs of the Vilavancode taluk.

MR. R. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Member, Vilavancode taluk*) said that agriculture was the mainstay of the people of Vilavancode. But there were no sufficient facilities for irrigation in the taluk. In successive sessions of the Assembly, the representatives of the taluk had urged for the improvement of channel irrigation in the taluk. Nothing was, however, done so far. One of the most urgent irrigational needs of the taluk was the construction of a dam in Chittar No. 1. This dam would irrigate close on 8000 acres of lands in the Neyyattinkara and Vilavancode taluks, while the cost of the work would come to only about three or four lakhs of rupees. Another important irrigational project was what was called the Valliyattumukham scheme. A third project was what was called by Mr. Horsely the Pirichani Reservoir scheme. Stringent instructions had to be issued to the Chief Engineer to investigate these schemes and to take them in hand as early as practicable. Equally important for the taluk was the restoration of tanks and other minor irrigation works. These had also to be attended to without delay.

Other needs of the taluk were :

(1) Raising of the level of the lane from Mankattukadavu to Parthiyapuram. The road had only to be raised three or four feet. It was not an expensive proposal at all. Though the same subject was brought forward at former sessions of the Assembly, the statement of action on the representations showed that the Government and the Chief Engineer had not yet made up their minds on it.

(2) A dispensary at Puthukada or Tengapattanam. The Medical Board had recommended a dispensary at either of the places, and Government had only to sanction the recommendation.

(3) A hospital at Kuzhithura. The member had made the same representation at the previous session of the Assembly, when the Dewan promised to make enquiries about the matter the next time he visited Kuzhithura. Unfortunately, he had no occasion to visit the place since. The member hoped that he would go to Kuzhithura soon and make the enquiries he had promised.

(4) A grant-in-aid to the Mahatma Gandhi hospital at Kuzhithura.

(5) A grant-in-aid to the Vishavaidyasala at Martandam. In regard to the grant-in-aid, the Vaidyan found himself in a dilemma. The municipal council told him that because the Vaidyasala served the people of the Vilavancode taluk rather than of the municipality he should apply to the Government for grant. Government on the other hand told him that because the Vaidyasala was situated within the municipality he should apply to the council for help. But as a matter of fact the Vaidyan was rendering very good service to the public and he deserved the help of Government.

(6) Abolition of tolls in the Padantalummudu market. This was really an evening market held on every Wednesday and Saturday evening. It was not a day market at all. The tolls in this market had therefore to be abolished.

(7) Conversion of the Martandam-Panachamudu road, Kaliyikavila-Andukodu road, and the Arumana-Panachamudu road into cartable roads and the construction of a road over the Arumana Panakara canal.

(8) Constitution of the Vilavancode taluk into a separate constituency for the Legislative Council. It would be enough if the proposal was taken up the next time when the reorganisation of constituencies was considered.